

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A sweetener composition, comprising:

- (a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine-1-methyl ester; and
- (b) aspartame,

wherein said aspartame is present in said composition in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total amount of said aspartame and said

N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal or an A-type crystal.

11. (Twice Amended) A drink composition, comprising:

(A) a mixture, comprising

- (a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester;
- and

- (b) aspartame;
- and

(B) a potable liquid, wherein said aspartame is present in said mixture in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total amount of said aspartame and said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal or an A-type crystal.

12. (Twice Amended) A method for preparing a sweetener composition, comprising:

(1) drying A-type crystals of N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester to obtain C-type crystals of N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester; and

(2) mixing said C-type crystals of N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester with aspartame, to obtain said sweetener composition, wherein said aspartame is present in said sweetener composition in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total weight of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said aspartame and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal having a water content of less than 3% by weight.

13. (Twice Amended) A method for producing a sweetener, comprising:

mixing N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester with aspartame, to obtain said sweetener composition,

wherein said aspartame is present in said sweetener composition in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total weight of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said aspartame and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal or an A-type crystal.

15. (Twice Amended) A method for improving the dissolution rate of N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester, comprising:

mixing said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester with aspartame, prior to dissolving said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester,

wherein said aspartame is mixed with said
N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester in an amount of 50
to 97% by weight based on the total weight of said

N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said
aspartame and wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine
1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal or an A-type crystal.